

For these reasons, I would like my colleagues to join me in applauding Sister Mary Franciscus and the leadership and membership of Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow. The success of the program is directly linked to the dedication, and quality of its leaders and teachers. I congratulate them on the celebration of their 15th Anniversary and wish them the best of luck for the next 15 and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO MARCIE KASPER

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven young women in my district who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

The Gold Award requires the greatest achievement in career exploration, service to other people, and acquisition of skills. This award is a strong reflection of these youngsters' ability to set goals, to put value into action, to plan, and to relate to the needs of the community.

I wish to recognize Marcie Kasper of Troop 330 in Yorba Linda, CA.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to congratulate and thank Karin Carlson, Director of Program Services for the Girl Scout Council of Orange County for notifying of their achievements. On behalf of the people of the 41st Congressional District of California, let me say that we are all proud of you.

A TRIBUTE TO HAROLD SHWERDT

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed chamber to pay tribute to Mr. Harold Shwerdt, who will be presented with a Life Membership by the Griswold Terry Glover Post No. 803 of the American Legion. This honor is well deserved and acknowledges the tremendous sacrifices Mr. Shwerdt has made for both our country and our community.

The Life Membership will be given to Mr. Shwerdt on April 28, 1999 at the American Legion banquet. The Life Membership is the highest honor the American Legion can bestow on its members. Mr. Shwerdt has long been an active member of the Griswold Terry Glover Post No. 803 of the American Legion, which holds their meetings in Southold, Long Island.

Mr. Shwerdt's first, and most important sacrifice, was to our nation. He is a World War II Veteran who put his life on the line to end injustice around the world. During the war, Harold spent time in a German prisoner of war camp. For 2 years, Harold was a German pris-

oner. Before his capture, Harold was a well-decorated fighter. He served as Flight Engineer for a United States B-17 bomber. It was in his plane that he was shot down and eventually captured. For his service to protect freedom alone, Mr. Shwerdt deserves our highest recognition.

After the war, Harold joined this post of the American Legion. It is here that Harold's hard work and determination paid huge dividends. His countless hours of devotion to assist others have helped both his American Legion post and the less fortunate members of our community. In his group, he helped to organize and strengthen both their Color Guard and their Bingo Team. In our community, Harold has been active with the Association for the Help of Retarded Children. He has also spent a countless number of hours helping Senior Citizens, Disabled Veterans and the St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and the American Legion in honoring Mr. Shwerdt for his invaluable contributions to our community. Here on Eastern Long Island, we have the utmost respect for both our veterans and volunteers, and we are privileged to have Mr. Harold Shwerdt in our community. Thankfully, his service and generosity to our community will never go unnoticed.

TRIBUTE TO JACK SELVIAN ON RECEIVING A PURPLE HEART

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Corporal Jack Selvian on receiving a Purple Heart. Jack served the Far East Air Service Command of the United States Air Force in World War II.

The initial liberation of the Philippine Islands from Japanese occupation, operation RENO, began on October 20, 1944, on Leyte Island. The primary purpose of the Leyte campaign was to establish Allied air and logistic bases to support subsequent operations. On October 20, 1944, after two hour naval bombardment, assault waves of four divisions landed between Dulag and Tacloban and quickly secured beachheads. Tacloban was October 24, and an air base was established. Leyte was never provided the major Allied air fields envisioned, but its seizure had other, more important results. By electing to fight a decisive battle at Leyte, the Japanese had committed their fleet and a major part of their air arm, both suffering crippling losses.

Jack Selvian, Corporal United States Air Corps was wounded in the line of duty, while serving at Tacloban Air Base on Leyte Island. Jack was working near the flight line next to stacked aircraft engines, stacked two and three high. After dusk, work was being done under the illumination of artificial light, a Japanese fighter performed a low altitude bombardment in an attempt to destroy the stacked engines. There was a space of 6 inches be-

tween the crates, and debris was blown through this gap hitting Jack in the left wrist and the left knee. Jack was later released from duty on December 24, 1945. After four years away from his family, he left the U.S. Air Corps with an Honorable Discharge, yet no one ever submitted his name to receive the Purple Heart. The records have been corrected and Jack will receive the Purple Heart on January 2, 1999. This honor will be bestowed 54 years after being earned.

Jack was born in Fresno on June 21, 1921, and upon his return from the war he married the former Violet Shumavon, the couple have been married for 51 years. They have two daughters, Susan Millard and Betty Gross, and have been blessed with five grandchildren. Jack and Paul Shumavon were proprietors of a grocery store for 20 years, and later co-owned the Chestnut Avenue Disposal Site. More recently Jack has been involved in farming grapes for raisin production.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jack Selvian, Corporal, United States Air Force. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jack Selvian best wishes for the future and sincerest thanks for his wartime sacrifice.

HONORING DOROTHY T. LEGGETT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dorothy T. Leggett for her tireless contributions to the Brooklyn community.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Dorothy Leggett has truly made an indelible mark in her community. Throughout her tenure in the community, Dorothy has striven to create numerous opportunities for all. As President of the National Council of Negro Women, Brooklyn Section, she introduced many new programs including the recognition of Black men who positively contribute to the Brooklyn community. Later, she unselfishly devoted herself to numerous organizations such as Mary McLeod Bethune Day Care Center, where she served on the Board of Directors for over twenty years; Church Women United, where she served as past Secretary; Community Planning Board #3; Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce; and the Unity Democratic Club.

Dorothy is truly a Renaissance woman! As a former Executive of Brownsville Multi-Service Center, she currently owns her own business, Hats Galore, on Nostrand Avenue. She also serves as Vice-President of the Chauncey Street Block Association, a community group that she helped reorganize.

Despite her numerous activities, Dorothy has raised two daughters, Doranne and Carmen. She has also been blessed with four beautiful grandchildren, David, Patrick, Chantel and Darilyn.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dorothy T. Leggett for her tireless and unwavering service to the community.